

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA)
Resident Advisory Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FCHRA RESIDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 2, 2004

On September 2, 2004, the members of the FCRHA Resident Advisory Council met at 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cynthia Thompson, Nancy Vaughn, Paulette Whiteside, Sandie Simpson, Calvin Nokes, and Gulshan Khan.

ABSENT: Charlen Kyle, Jennifer Waitt, Pam Cave, Lisa Bathen, Donna Dye, Khadijah Baltrop, Vasantha Mba, John Croley, and Jersuaalem Tegbaru

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Whiteside called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council members had to hold on approving the minutes due to lack of quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council members present started the review process for the FY 2006 – FY2010 5 year plan and the FY 2006 annual plan.

Kay Robertson presented a powerpoint presentation on the 5-year and annual plan process. Briefly described the last 5-year and annual plan and moved into the strategic goals of HUD and the FCRHA. Kay advised the council that this is the council's opportunity to provide their input into the FCRHA strategic goals.

Kay briefly pointed out the areas in the plan that will have changes.

Russ Boothby will be in attendance at the October meeting to go over the modernization and rehab projects.

The goals of the FCRHA are:

1st goal: To preserve, expand and facilitate affordable housing opportunities in Fairfax County.

2nd goal: To assure the continued excellent reputation of the FCRHA through fiscally responsible policies, sound business practices, and well-maintained properties that meet the high community standards of Fairfax County.

3rd goal: Provide an improved living environment.

4th goal: Facilitate the self-sufficiency of FCRHA residents as they move toward financial independence, while recognizing the needs of special populations.

5th goal: To generate and increase opportunities for homeownership as a means to self-sufficiency, asset growth, neighborhood stability and allow those who work in Fairfax County to live in the County.

6th goal: Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing.

The code of federal regulations states the rules that we have to follow in regards to equal opportunity.

7th goal: To preserve, expand and facilitate affordable housing opportunities in Fairfax County.
(repeat of goal number one)

8th goal: To assure the continued excellent reputation of the FCRHA through fiscally responsible policies, sound business practices, and well-maintained properties that meet the high community standards of Fairfax County. (repeat of goal number two)

9th goal: To support revitalization and entrepreneurial initiatives that benefits the communities and residents of Fairfax County

10th goal: To give citizens a sense of ownership in policies and programs, through open and two-way communication of ideas and information about housing and revitalization and opportunities.

11th goal: To commit to strategic and innovative solutions for meeting changing community needs and challenges.

The council is interested in leaving all of the FCRHA goals included in the FCRHA public housing and housing choice voucher 5 year and annual plan.

Mail package out on the 14th for council to review everything. We will be sending draft goals and objectives, and maybe the accomplishments since 2000 if completed.

Kay pointed out the sheet of values attached in the package. Are there any values that the council feel should be changed or added? Council thought they were fine.

Value 8: Financial independent..... Staff has listened to the council's concern regarding FSS. HCD has received some grant money for FSS programs. HCD has also partnered with Family services to accomplish our FSS goals.

Communication issues from the REAC surveys. HCD received a score of a 72 which is below HUD's 75.

Communication problem with calls not being returned within a reasonable time. What time frame is a reasonable time to return calls? Council felt 48 hours was reasonable. Leave on machine what time frame you will get back to callers.

Talked about different options for calling trees or one person answering all of the calls.

Handbooks of general questions and their answers.

Time frames given for inspections are too wide (council feels good window is 4 hours)

Quarterly newsletters and meetings held by the managers. Do you go and are they informative? Council feels that the newsletters are very informative. Come out more as important events happen (Staff changes, computer system). Council starting to write articles to put in the quarterly newsletters.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS:

Kay would be willing to provide a 10 minute presentation on the trends in Fairfax County, i.e. population growth, incomes, disproportionate needs, rent levels, job market with no housing, get into sustain affordable housing. Will start presentation at 6:45.

At next meeting we will get into each of the goals. Particularly the 8th goal.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Whiteside adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.